PROVIDING SERVICES RELATED TO ITEM DELIVERY VIA 3D MANUFACTURING ON DEMAND

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application is a Continuation-in-Part application of co-pending U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/799,877, filed Mar. 13, 2013, entitled "SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR FABRICATING PRODUCTS ON DEMAND, which is a Division of U.S. Pat. No. 8,412,588, filed Sep. 24, 2010 and issued on Apr. 2, 2013, entitled "SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR FABRICATING PRODUCTS ON DEMAND," which are incorporated herein by reference in their entireties.

[0002] This application is also related to and incorporates by reference for all purposes the full disclosure of co-pending U.S. patent application Ser. No. _____, filed concurrently herewith, entitled "ITEM DELIVERY USING 3D MANUFACTURING ON DEMAND" (Attorney Docket No. 90204-880954 (065800US)), co-pending U.S. patent application Ser. No. _____, filed concurrently herewith, entitled "VENDOR INTERFACE FOR ITEM DELIVERY VIA 3D MANUFACTURING ON DEMAND" (Attorney Docket No. 90204-886145 (0068100US)), co-pending U.S. patent application Ser. No. _____, filed concurrently herewith, entitled "FULFILLMENT OF ORDERS FOR ITEMS USING 3D MANUFACTURING ON DEMAND" (Attorney Docket No. 90204-886147(068300US)), co-pending U.S. patent application Ser. No. _____, filed concurrently herewith, entitled "CUSTOMIZATION AND OTHER FEATURES FOR ITEM DELIVERY VIA 3D MANUFACTURING ON DEMAND" (Attorney Docket No. 90204-886148 (068400US)).

BACKGROUND

[0003] In the modern age of e-commerce, many items are bought or sold electronically. To facilitate such an electronic transaction, a service provider may provide a network site or other electronic marketplace through which a customer can select and order an item. The item may be one of many items offered by the electronic marketplace. The electronic marketplace may have systems for identifying the selected item and ensuring that it is delivered to the customer. The multiplicity of items offered may require the electronic marketplace owner/operator to maintain a large inventory requiring sufficient space to store the inventory. An electronic marketplace may also face the challenge of time delays related to the process of finding the selected item among a large inventory. Increased space to store additional inventory may raise costs for the electronic marketplace. Additionally, time delays between receiving an order and shipping the item to the customer may reduce customer satisfaction and affect revenues generated. Accordingly, an electronic marketplace may find it desirable to decrease the amount of warehouse or inventory storage space needed, to reduce the amount of time consumed between receiving an order and delivering the item to the customer, or both.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0004] Various embodiments in accordance with the present disclosure will be described with reference to the drawings, in which:

[0005] FIG. **1** is a schematic diagram showing an example system for providing one or more Manufactured-On-Demand (MOD) items to users via computer systems of a service provider in accordance with embodiments.

[0006] FIG. **2** is a schematic diagram depicting an illustrative system or architecture in which techniques for providing one or more MOD items to users via computer systems may be implemented in accordance with embodiments.

[0007] FIG. **3** is a flow chart representing a process for providing MOD items to users in accordance with embodiments.

[0008] FIG. **4** is a schematic diagram depicting aspects of an example order module in accordance with embodiments.

[0009] FIG. **5** is a flow chart representing a process that can be executed by the order module for receiving an order of a user for a MOD item in accordance with embodiments.

[0010] FIG. **6** is a schematic diagram depicting aspects of an example supplier interface module in accordance with embodiments.

[0011] FIG. **7** is a flow chart representing a process that can be executed by the supplier interface module in accordance with embodiments.

[0012] FIG. **8** is a schematic diagram depicting aspects of an example manufacture module in accordance with embodiments.

[0013] FIG. **9** is a flow chart representing a process that can be executed by the manufacture module in accordance with embodiments.

[0014] FIG. **10** is a schematic diagram depicting aspects of an example delivery module in accordance with embodiments.

[0015] FIG. **11** is a flow chart representing a process that can be executed by the delivery module in accordance with embodiments.

[0016] FIG. **12** is a flow chart representing a process that can be executed by a system to perform a first example delivery method in accordance with embodiments.

[0017] FIG. **13** is a flow chart representing a process that can be executed by a system to perform a second example delivery method in accordance with embodiments.

[0018] FIG. **14** is a flow chart representing a process that can be executed by a system to perform a third example delivery method in accordance with embodiments.

[0019] FIG. **15** is a flow chart representing a process that can be executed by a system to perform a fourth example delivery method in accordance with embodiments.

[0020] FIG. **16** is a flow chart representing a process that can be executed by a system to perform a fifth example delivery method in accordance with embodiments.

[0021] FIG. **17** is a flow chart representing a process that can be executed by a system for distributing MOD items on behalf of suppliers in accordance with embodiments.

[0022] FIG. **18** is a flow chart representing a process that can be executed by a system for determining the manner in which an item is provided to a user in accordance with embodiments.

[0023] FIG. **19** is a flow chart representing a process that can be executed by a system for associating environmental offsets with suppliers that utilize systems of a service provider to distribute MOD items to users in accordance with embodiments.

[0024] FIG. **20** is a flow chart representing a process that can be executed by a system for providing the designs and